

BELCHAMP WALTER PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting was held on 17th February 2021 at 7:30 pm via video conference.

Present:

Cllr J Walker (Chair), Cllr A Hogsbjerg, Cllr C Krelle, Cllr E Poels, Cllr M. Winter, Ms J Munro (Parish Clerk)

County Cllr D Finch

Ms Jenna Beby

Apologies

Cllr S Perez, Cllr R Teverson, Dist Cllr I Parker

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2020 were approved and would be signed by the chair as a correct record.

2. Reports

County Cllr D Finch provided a report on County activities. As the request of the chair he addressed three matters: Budget, Climate Change and Flooding.

3. Parishioner Statements

None

4. Matters Arising

(a) Defibrillator

The clerk reported that the defibrillator had been installed in the telephone box and the village provided with a leaflet discussing the location and guidance for use. The leaflet also provided instructions on how to access some on line training which is linked from the Parish Council website. Once the weather is warmer the telephone box will be painted.

(b) Playing Field Fence

The clerk reported that the playing field fence and corner post had been repaired and the contractor paid.

(c) Bus shelter

(d) The clerk noted that Cllr Krelle had repainted the bus shelter. The Council thanked Cllr Krelle noting that the shelter looked much better.

(e) Grass Cutting

The clerk reported that a new contract had been signed covering grass cutting and strimming to cover the cemetery, village hall, bus shelter area and pond area. The contract is effective from 1st February 2021.

(f) Parish Paths Partnership Scheme

The clerk reported that Cllr Perez had contacted Braintree DC and was waiting for a response.

(g) Village Hall Wall

The council discussed the repairs to the village hall wall. It was agreed that, because the wall is listed, all repairs should be lime mortared. The council asked the clerk to convey this information to the person contracted to do some repairs.

(h) Parish Emergency Plan

The clerk reported that the plan had been updated, circulated to the council for comment and submitted to Braintree District Council.

(i) Extension of speed limit

The council discussed the request from a parishioner for the council to support extending the 30mph zone from its existing position to the village sign on Hall Road. It was noted that the council had supported the previous request but the application had been rejected by Braintree DC.

Two councillors supported the request, two opposed and one expressed a mixed view. Those that opposed the request noted that the current speed limit is at the edge of the village and support for the extension might lead to requests for further extensions. In light of the absence of a majority view, it was agreed that Cllr Teverson would be asked for his view (Cllr Perez recused herself from this agenda item due to an interest in the matter.) Subsequent to the meeting Cllr Teverson indicated he opposed. Consequently no further action was taken.

(j) Website and communication

Discussion deferred until the next meeting.

(k) Belchamp Walter Blooms

Discussion deferred until the next meeting.

5. Finance Report

(a) Ms Munro reported on the bank balances at 08/11/2020

Community Account	£5,703	
Reserves Account		£2,560
Restricted Playing Field Acct		£222

(b) 2021/2022 Precept. The clerk reported that a precept of £5,784 had been requested. This will result in a small increase in monies received by the council but a zero increase in tax per household.

6. Correspondence

- The council discussed a proposal by Jenna Beby to bring back a general village store to the Old Bakehouse. The council members were as individuals supportive of the idea and wished Ms beby well with the venture.
- Woodland trust tree planting. The clerk noted that the Woodland Trust will be providing trees for community planting. It was agreed the clerk should research the matter for discussion at the next meeting.

7. Items for next regular meeting on 19th May 2021

Village Hall Wall

P3P

Website and communications

Belchamp Walter Blooms

Woodland Trust Tree planting